



The Ames Intelligencer

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Member of American Association for Local & State History

"George Washington" Will Speak at AHA Annual Meeting



George Washington, alias Iowa State University Professor Clair W. Keller, will present the program at the Ames Heritage Association's annual meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 11, 1990 starting at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium at the Ames Public Library, 515 Douglas Avenue in Ames.

"President Washington" will host a "press conference" to speak about the "future of the Nation while on tour of New England in the Fall of 1789."

Professor Clair W. Keller holds a joint appointment in the departments of history and secondary education at Iowa State University

where he teaches early American history and social studies. Professor Keller came to ISU in 1969 from the Bellevue School District in Bellevue, Washington where he taught high school social studies for ten years. Because of Professor Keller's joint appointment in history and education, he has engaged in writing about history, as well as teaching history.

To help with Iowa's celebration of the bicentennial of the Constitution, Professor Keller began holding historical press conferences by such notables as Richard Henry Lee, George Washington, and James Madison. Last year, he received a

grant from the U.S. Bicentennial Commission to prepare and conduct a series of historical press conferences in Iowa schools. As a result, he has given more than 50 presentations to nearly 6,000 children and adults.

Officers for 1990 and members of the board of directors will be elected at the annual meeting. Current Ames Heritage Association President Jack Adams invites the public to attend the program and encourages interested persons to volunteer to serve as members of the board of the Ames Heritage Association.



Hundreds Celebrate Ames' 125th Anniversary

by Kathy Svec

"Faces of Our Founders," the Ames quasiquicentennial exhibit presented at the Octagon during November 1989, was viewed by more than 1,600 people, including 550 school children who toured with their classes from Crawford, Fellows, Meeker, Mitchell, Northwood, Roosevelt, and Sawyer Elementary Schools. A game improvised by Octagon staff challenged students to find information throughout the show.

The gala opening on November 5, 1989 was well-attended by people of all ages who enjoyed talks by Farwell Brown, Dorothy Schweider, and members of the League of Women Voters. Taped interviews with Farwell about John Blair, Oakes Ames, Parley Sheldon, and Wallace Greeley, as well as a tour of

the exhibit area, have been broadcast on the city cable channels, allowing more citizens to see the exhibition and learn about Ames history. These programs will continue to be aired in the coming months. A portion of the show will be on view at the new city hall during its opening celebration in April 1990.

Posters and postcards showing views of Ames included in the show are on sale at the Octagon shop and other locations in the city.

In conjunction with the celebration, a special edition of *The Ames Intelligencer* was produced to highlight several of Ames' most important citizens — the faces of our founders. The exhibit information will also be duplicated in a booklet of photographs and biographical infor-

mation to be available for purchase in April 1990 in conjunction with the dedication of the new city hall.

A number of people also took advantage of a heritage hike scheduled in October 1989. The tour explored the architectural heritage of downtown Ames.

The exhibit and the school visits were supported in part by grants from the Ames Community Arts Council and the Ames Commission on the Arts.

Ames Heritage Association board member Sharon Wirth helped sponsor tours for school children visiting the historical exhibit at the Octagon. Sharon received some delightful letters and pictures, some of which are reproduced here.

Dear Mrs. Wirth and Mrs. Spinrad,
Thank you for inviting us. I liked learning
that they paved the streets with wood bricks.
I liked the game. I liked learning
about Oakes Ames. I liked how they
connected the train. The bike was
nice. I hope we can come again.

Your friends,
Jacob Anderegg

Nov. 27, 1989

Dear Mrs. Wirth and Ms. Spinrad,
Thank you so very much
for the wonderful tour of Ames.
I thought it was interesting.
When I got home and told
my parents they were
surprised! I knew more about
Ames than they did.

Sincerely,
Luke Guthrie



Celebrating Ames' Birthday

by Ellen Landon

Farwell Brown, official historiographer for Ames, is cooperating with the city cable television staff to produce a series of historical videotapes about early Ames.

The tapes will be a means of marking the quasiquicentennial anniversary of the founding of Ames. Copies will be kept at the city administration building for playing over Channels 33 and 32, and they will also be made available to the Ames Public Library.

Subjects included are Brown's "Early Ames Album," early schools, churches, Christmas in early Ames, famous Amesonians, and letters from the past.

Tapes featuring other Ames historical events, including one on the Bauge Log House, will be a part of the series.

The series was completed by December 1989, the actual month of the 125th anniversary of Ames. Ancestors of Brown, who has lived in Ames all of his life, were among the earliest residents of the little village. He has spent years in research and collecting to develop a pictorial and written history of the city.

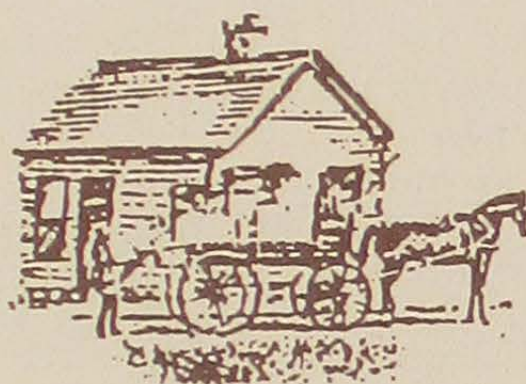


Elections Are Scheduled

The nominating committee reports that the terms for the following members of the Ames Heritage Association board of directors will expire in January 1990: Kathy Svec, Bill LaGrange, Lee Himan, Sharon Wirth, and Jay Simser. Jay Simser has decided not to serve another term, and Jan Halverson has resigned from the board. The following persons have agreed to serve three-year terms on the board: Kathy Svec, Bill LaGrange, Lee Himan, Sharon

Wirth, and Bev Kudla. These persons will be elected at the annual meeting in January 1990.

The following slate of officers for the board of directors was presented by the nominating committee: President, Kathy Svec; Vice-President, Don Faas; Secretary, unfilled; and Treasurer, Nancy Ezarski. Election of the officers of the Ames Heritage Association will also take place at the annual meeting in January 1990.



Ames loses another slice of history

by Sharon Wirth

A tragic thing happened on July 5, 1989 in Ames.

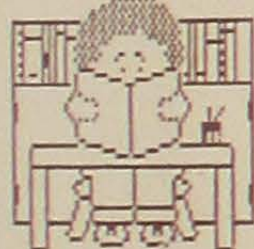
The original (1865) depot was demolished. Unknown to most Ames residents, the original depot was hidden within the building covered with metal siding located just south of the tracks near Main and Duff. As workers began removing the metal siding, the building was discovered.

Noted Ames historian, Farwell Brown, alerted those involved to the identity of the building. It appeared as though some time would be allowed to look at alternatives to demolition and at least salvage materials from the building. However, when Mr. Brown visited the site with an architect, demolition was well under way.

Thus, Ames has lost yet another of its irreplaceable historic resources. While some recent activities in Ames (passage of the historic preservation ordinance, establishment of the Historic Preservation Commission, the sensitive rehabilitation of the old Central Junior High building, the saving of the 1866 Bauge Log Home, consideration of the Old Town Historic District, and numerous restoration projects in the Historic Old Town Area) suggest that Ames is beginning to recognize the value of its historic resources, the July 5, 1989 demolition sends a strong message to the contrary.

The City of Ames should provide leadership in this area as plans for the future are made. An effective tool to assist with this would be a complete inventory of historic resources. Funds for this should be allocated immediately and the survey begun at once. Demolition of any structure listed in the inventory should not be allowed until all alternatives have been explored. Ames has precious few historic resources. Active conservation of these resources should be city policy.

Although it is too late to salvage any of the 1865 depot, there is still time to learn from this mistake and take steps for the future protection of remaining historic resources.



*Meeker School
Ames, Iowa - 50010
November 21, 1989*

*Dear Mrs. Wirth and Ellen,
Thank you for showing us around. I liked the wooden bridge. My teacher thought the man with the white leg was funny. Everything was interesting. The Nippon train must have been helpful. Do you like working at the Octagon?*

*Sincerely,
Tom Brown*

Update: Bauge Log Home Project

The board of directors of the Ames Heritage Association received a number of reports concerning the Bauge log home restoration project during the past few months. Some of the highlights of these reports are included here.

— A number of private organizations and clubs have received tours and programs related to the project. A policy for visiting the log home has been developed.

— Work days were scheduled to prepare the home site for the open houses and for the winter months. Thanks to Don Faas and his assistants for their help!

— After receiving estimates for the costs of restoring the Bauge home in the amount of approximately \$13,000, the board will focus on fundraising during the winter months in preparation for restoration work scheduled to begin again in the spring.

— Members of the organization met with the Story County Conservation Board to update them on the progress of restoration of the log home.

— Finally, two open houses were sponsored by the Ames Heritage Association and the Story County Conservation Board in September 1989 to allow people to tour the log home. The open house for the general public attracted more than 200 curious visitors, while more than 50 members of the Bauge family visited the home - and reminisced - at the family open house held in conjunction with Elden and Marguerite Bauge's 50th wedding anniversary. Special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Everett Ritland, Farwell and Ruth Brown, Ann Watts, Suzanne Kelly, and Sharon Wirth for all their assistance in hosting and providing refreshments for the open houses. And a special thanks to all the Bauge family members who continue to provide information, funds, furnishings, and support for this special project.



GET ON THE RIGHT TRACK!

In less than three months, the city administration offices of Ames will be moving out of their current location in the Ames Depot. What will be the new opportunity for this building of striking and exceptional design? Centrally located and notably visible from any approach, the Ames Depot is already an integral part of community life in Ames as the site of the popular Farmer's Market, the western-most anchor of the downtown commercial district, and an important transfer location for public transportation.

Among its many assets, the Ames Depot has the distinctive potential for development as a significant cultural landmark, as noted in the recent study by the League of Women Voters on the future development of the Ames Depot and the surrounding property. Preservation and rehabilitation of the Ames Depot could result in an identifying, marketable element for Ames. The League feels this is a unique development opportunity for the community.

The League asked interested community leaders and local citizens who are active in the development and promotion of Ames what would they like to see happen in this vital location. Their suggestions included restaurants and retail and office spaces. Many are attracted by the heightened visual impact created by rehabilitating the exterior of the Ames Depot to its original architectural design. Historic photographs of the original park-like grounds which surrounded the Ames Depot sharply contrast with the present appearance of the property. They strongly illustrate the need for a greater emphasis on improving the site with appropriate landscaping.

The Ames City Council has expressed support for the League's position on rehabilitation. They have directed city staff to prepare the Request For Proposal (RFP) guidelines for potential developers along the recommendations suggested by the League.

Only a few months remain until the Ames Depot will be vacated! What would YOU like to see

developed in this distinctive landmark and its adjacent grounds? Share this information with others and contact your local city council members and let them know of your support!

For more information or to schedule an Ames Depot presentation for your group or organization, call Susan Minks at 232-5761 or Sharon Wirth at 233-2415.

T-shirts with the "Get on the Right Track" logo are available for sale to benefit the campaign to preserve the Ames Depot.

The League of Women Voters Position Statement follows:

The League of Women Voters of Ames supports rehabilitation (the contemporary use of a building or structure while preserving those features which are significant to its historical, architectural, and cultural values) of the Ames Depot building and site. This includes routine maintenance by the City of Ames to arrest or slow future deterioration of the Ames Depot. The League supports public or private ownership with restrictions to maintain the integrity of the building. The League does not support the demolition of the Ames Depot building. The city should be encouraged to designate the Ames Depot as a local historic landmark. The League would support low traffic usage (i.e., specialty shops, offices, restaurants), space for an Amtrak station, mass transit hub if Amtrak is included, and/or a display space for historical materials. The League does not support using the Ames Depot as a community center, museum, location for light industry, and/or a mass transit hub without Amtrak. The city should provide incentives for development plans which include a rehabilitation component. Incentives should not be provided for the demolition of the building. Parking should be creatively designed to provide as much green space as possible. If parking space could be replaced in another part of downtown, more area should be used as green space. Landscaping should meet or exceed the City of Ames code.





For Sale: Historical Calendars

At the November 1989 meeting of the board of directors of the Ames Heritage Association, board members approved the purchase of 200 copies of a 1990 Ames historical calendar. The calendars are filled with photos and descriptions of Ames history. The calendars are currently being sold at \$5.00 each as a fundraiser for the organization. If a supply of the calendars is available, the calendars will be sold at the annual meeting on January 11, 1990.

Contact Jack Adams, Farwell Brown, and Sharon Wirth for more information.

It's Time to Renew!

It's time to renew your membership in the Ames Heritage Association! We ask that you continue to support the association and its efforts to preserve the heritage of our community.

Projects during the past year have included research on Ames heritage for the newsletter; restoration of the Bauge log home; contributions to the Ames' founding fathers exhibit; maintenance of the Hoggatt School and its educational programs; support for the development of the Old Town Historic District; and continued efforts in involving others in the preservation of our Ames heritage.

For the past nine years, the dues for this organization have remained the same. Much of that money is used for the newsletter, which shares Ames history and news for Ames Heritage Association members. Financial resources are needed for the many educational and historical projects to be implemented. Therefore, for the first time in almost a decade, the membership dues have been increased. A sliding scale has also been adopted in recognition of various memberships. Dues for 1990 have been set as follows:

Life Membership	\$1,000.00
Sustaining Membership	100.00
Business/Organization Membership	30.00
Regular Membership	12.00
Senior Citizen or Student Membership	8.00

If you have already paid for 1990, thank you! Dues cards will be available at the annual meeting on January 11, 1990 at the Ames Public Library. Gift memberships to friends and relatives are also available. Please contact members of the board of directors of the Ames Heritage Association for more information. And thank you!

Please enroll me as a 1990 member of the AMES HERITAGE ASSOCIATION.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Type of Membership:

_____ Regular (\$12.00)

_____ Business and Organization (\$30.00)

_____ Senior or Student (\$8.00)

_____ Sustaining (\$100.00)

_____ Life (\$1,000.00)

*Please make checks payable to the AMES HERITAGE ASSOCIATION and mail to
Treasurer Nancy Ezarski, P.O. Box 821 Ames, Iowa 50010.*

Thank You!

Minutes

From meetings of the Board of Directors of the Ames Heritage Association:

- Reports by Treasurer Nancy Ezarski indicating a balance of \$1,860.24 as of December 1989, including income from membership dues, interest, Bauge house donations, sales of historical calendars, and grant funds from the Ames Community Arts Council, as well as expenditures for printing and postage for the newsletter, Hoggatt School maintenance, printing of historical calendars, and Bauge open house expenses;
- Reports concerning the Bauge log house project (see information elsewhere);
- Reports concerning the League of Women Voters' position statement in support of rehabilitation and maintenance of the Ames Depot (see information elsewhere);
- Reports concerning the celebration of the 125th anniversary of the original platting of the city of Ames (see information elsewhere);
- Reports concerning Hoggatt School, including meetings with the new principal of Meeker Elementary School concerning the policies and agreements between the Ames Heritage Association and Meeker School, investigating the construction of a water line for watering prairie plantings at the site, and appointing a committee to assist with tours and maintenance at the school;

- Reports concerning the Billy Sunday cemetery marker, including a cost of approximately \$400 and grant applications for funding;
- Set meeting dates for the AHA board of directors for the third Tuesday of each month starting at 7:00 p.m. at the Willson-Beard-shear School, 920 Carroll in Ames;
- Arranged the program for the annual meeting (see information elsewhere);
- Approved a dues increase (see information elsewhere);
- Report concerning AHA representation to the Story County Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) committee to review and comment on grant requests for REAP funding;
- Report concerning the election of a new board of directors (see information elsewhere);
- Report concerning AHA involvement in the dedication of the new city hall in April 1990 with the theme of the 125th anniversary of Ames;
- Approved the purchase of 200 copies of a 1990 Ames historical calendar as a fundraiser and membership benefit (see information elsewhere); and
- Presented a letter to the Ames City Council in support of a study to investigate the feasibility of using, rather than destroying, the Public Safety Building, siting the historical and architectural significance of the building.

Ames Heritage Association Officers

President Jack Adams
Box 852, Ames
292-1342

Vice-President Don Faas
4419 Ross Road, Ames
292-1613

Secretary Sharon Wirth
803 Burnett, Ames
233-2415

Treasurer Nancy Ezarski
714 Douglas Avenue, Ames
232-1002

Editor Cele Burnett
1214 Curtiss, Ames
232-2791

Ames Official Historian
Farwell T. Brown
1801 - 20th Street, Ames
232-9444

The Ames Heritage Association meets the third Tuesday of every month (September through May) at 7:00 p.m. at the Willson-Beard-shear School, 920 Carroll, Ames.

The annual membership meeting is held the third Tuesday of January. Time and place are announced in advance.

The *Ames Intelligencer* is published three times a year—winter, spring, and fall.

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